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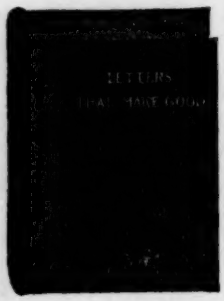

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Special Libraries

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A Field for a Special Library

Yet one more science have we to note as bearing directly on industrial success—the Science of Society. Without knowing it, men who daily look at the state of the money-market, glance over prices current, discuss the probable crops of corn, cotton, sugar, wool, silk, weigh the chances of war, and from all those data decide on their mercantile operations, are students of social science; empirical and blundering students it may be; but still, students who gain the prizes or are plucked of their profits, according as they do or do not reach the right conclusion. Not only the manufacturer and the merchant must guide their transactions by calculations of supply and demand, based on numerous facts, and tacitly recognizing sundry general principles of social action; but even the retailer must do the like; his prosperity very greatly depending upon the correctness of his judgments respecting the future wholesale prices and the future rates of consumption. Manifestly, all who take part in the entangled commercial activities of a community, are vitally interested in understanding the laws according to which those activities vary.

—Herbert Spencer's Education.

Annual Library Conventions

The Special Libraries Association will hold its annual convention in Washington, D. C., May 25th to 30th, in connection with the American Library Association. The other organizations affiliated with the American Library Association will also hold their convention at the same time and place.

This meeting will present a desirable opportunity to special librarians to visit and study the many special fields of library activity engaged in by the departments of the government and by organizations with headquarters at the capital.

The number of formal meetings will be kept to the minimum so that ample opportunity will be given for inspections and informal round tables.

Mr. George B. Utley, speaking for the American Library Association, makes the following announcements:

The city of Washington has been unanimously chosen by the Executive Board as the next meeting place of the Association. The date has been definitely set as May 25th to 30th.

Judging from the comments and opinions of various members from widely different sections of country, the decision is a popular one and will be generally welcomed. The board had been of the impression that a middle-west meeting place should be selected, or at least that a point as far east as Washington should not be chosen, in view of the 1913 meeting in that section. In order to ascertain the real feeling of the middle-west librarians a "straw vote" was taken. The secretary selected eighty representative members of the Association residing in the middle-west states and asked their preference, Washington in May or Mackinac Island the first week in July. The "returns" show Washington, 50; Mackinac Island, 23. This seemed to indicate clearly that the middle-west librarians and library assistants looked with much favor on Washington. The national capital will undoubtedly be popular with the East and South, and the people from the far West will not mind another day's ride, for they are used to it, or else they can wait until 1915, in the hope that the association will come to their region.

Of course it will be impossible for all the delegates to be housed under one hostelry in Washington. Headquarters will be at the New Willard, the finest hotel in the capital, but accommodations can only be had there for about 200 members. The rates of the New Willard, however, will be inconveniently high to many. Across the street the New Ebbitts offers accommodations for 400 or 500 at a rate of $3.00 a day and up, American plan. A large number of other hotels in the vicinity offer a wide range of service and prices. Library assistants will find room and board, if desired, as low as $2.00 and $2.50 per day. A rooming bureau will be established in Washington, through which the members will be helped to secure the class of accommodations they desire. The Executive Board at its recent meeting passed a vote restricting the services of the rooming bureau in securing reduced rates at the hotels to members of the Association, of the affiliated societies, and of their families. It has been found that a number of librarians availed themselves of the reduced rates at the hotels in time of conference without joining either the Association or affiliated societies, and, as there is a heavy expense to the Association in conducting a conference, it seems only just and fair that those profiting should bear their share of the expense by joining the Association and paying the very reasonable membership fee.

The conference will be opened on Monday and end on Saturday. The program committee, fully appreciating the numerous library and other educational features of Washington which should be visited, propose to have only four general sessions instead of the usual six, and the various sections and affiliated societies will be urged also to lighten their program so as to give more free time to delegates. It is hoped that a small pamphlet will be compiled and distributed to all registering, enumerating various libraries in the district, how to reach them, hours they are open, principal attractions of each, and how they may serve the librarians of the country at large.

A special effort will be made to have our Canadian members attend this Washington meeting in large numbers, as a return visit to ours to their national capital in 1912.

The program committee are already engaged on the program. Its general tone and nature will of course be influenced by the fact of its presentation at the national capital and in proximity to the national library and the various departmental libraries which perform a more or less national service. The meetings will mostly be held in the New Willard Hotel. Perhaps for some of the large general sessions other arrangements will be made. A number of pleasant social features are being tentatively planned. The local arrangements will be largely in the capable hands of Dr. Bowerman, the librarian of the Public Library of the District of Columbia, and of course the advice and co-operation of Dr. Putnam will be at all times available and utilized. Post-conference plans have not yet been formulated, but something interesting, enjoyable and relaxing may be confidently expected

from the resourceful and experienced chairman of the travel committee.

Washington will be such a magnet that it is unnecessary to urge librarians to plan to attend this conference. It will undoubtedly be one of the largest in the history of the Association. It is hoped that each one who goes will carry home definite and clearer knowledge how his own community and his own library may be helped by the Library of Congress, by the office of the Superintendent of Documents, by the library of the Bureau of Education, the Department of Agriculture, and other departmental systems. That will make the 1914 Washington conference a success worthy of repetition in the future.

List of References on Sterilization of Criminals and Defectives

(Compiled under the direction of H. H. B. Meyer, Chief Bibliographer, Library of Congress, with the co-operation of the State Libraries and State Legislative Reference Departments. Contributions were received from the following: Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia).

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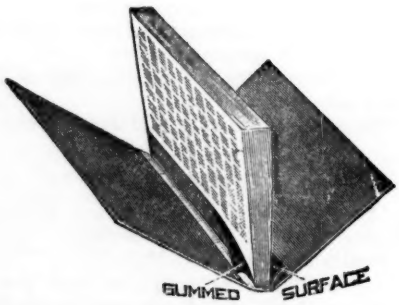

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